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rendering first aid to the injured are an asset of incalculable value, not only in time of war, but in time of peace, as well.

Conservation of human life and human energy is by far the most important question before the American people today, and to teach them along this line is a step in the right direction. We, as surgeons, physicians and nurses, must do the greater part of this work by teaching the people this practical branch of medicine and surgery, thereby rendering an everlasting service to suffering man.

The time has come when we must forget all selfish motives, remembering the great fundamental principle embodied in the saying: "Do unto others as you would that they should do to you."

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF RURAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

The *New York State Medical Journal* for December contains a paper on this subject by William A. Howe, M.D., in which he gives some interesting statements as the result of the first year of the administration of the medical inspection law. Some reports were highly gratifying while others were equally discouraging.

Many instances were cited where certificates were issued without seeing the child, some being questioned on the telephone, and even the teacher filling out the cards and the physician signing them.

Several cases were reported where operative treatment was necessary on tonsils a few days after a perfect bill of health had been given.

In another instance, the day after the supposed inspection was completed and health certificates issued, the teacher discovered a bad case of pediculosis in one of the children. When she reported it to the inspector he absolutely refused to advise or in any manner assist in its relief.

In one district, \$2000 was expended for medical inspection in one year, and little or no follow-up work accomplished. In this district, thirty children were examined in one hour and one dollar paid for each examination. It is but fair to say, however, that in this district many successful cases were reported.

One superintendent on examining the certificates of several of his schools finds the report exactly the same for the teeth of all of the children. In this district though all were given a certificate of good health, several cases of seriously impaired breathing were operated soon after inspection.

One of the most striking instances that has come to our attention is that of a child wearing one glass eye to whom a certificate of perfect vision was issued for both eyes.

Several teachers have complained of the same tongue depressor being used on thirteen or fourteen children, then on herself, without such being sterilized. In one case the teacher became ill with tonsillitis within seven days.

Trustees have also complained of this same neglect, offering such as sufficient justification for not complying with the law.

In the midst of so many neglectful experiences we find many, many, other occasions in which the work has been carefully and conscientiously performed, in which most gratifying results have been accomplished. Many grateful parents have written thanking the department for the wonderful relief extended to their children. Hundreds, yes, thousands, of children have been placed on a higher plane of physical fitness."